



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Louisiana's Unemployment Rate Falls

The Louisiana Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), continues to closely monitor the economic impact of the recent hurricanes on the business and household surveys in the affected parishes. In producing the post-hurricane estimates, BLS announced that a number of modifications were made to standard estimating procedures to better reflect the employment part of the civilian labor force estimates. For a detailed explanation of the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on all of the BLS program's methodology, please go to <http://stats.bls.gov/katrina/cpscesquestions.htm>.

BATON ROUGE – The state and national unemployment rates for June 2006 stood at 4.6 percent. This represented a decrease from May's rate of 5.2 percent for Louisiana and no change for the U. S. The year-ago revised June unemployment rates were 5.5 percent for Louisiana and 5.0 percent for the U. S.

"The number of people employed in the labor force increased over the month at the same time that the unemployment estimate dropped," said Secretary of Labor John Warner Smith. "People who were looking for work in May were able to find jobs. The Louisiana job market remains strong."

The state's civilian labor force for June 2006 decreased to 1,871,236, from 1,876,778 in May. The number of employed in June increased to 1,784,905, from 1,778,303 in May. Louisiana's unemployed for June dropped to 86,331, from 98,475 in May.

Unadjusted unemployment rates compare parishes and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to the state. The June 2006 unadjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana was 5.8 percent, up from the May's rate of 4.8 percent. The unemployment rates for the MSAs were: Alexandria, 5.2 percent, up from 4.0 percent in May; Baton Rouge, 5.3 up from 4.4; Houma, 4.4, up from 3.7; Lafayette, 4.2, up from 3.4; Lake Charles, 5.0, up from 3.8; Monroe, 5.3, up from 4.3; New Orleans, 7.2, up from 6.4; and Shreveport-Bossier City, 5.3, up from 4.3 percent last month. Lafayette Parish had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.1 percent in June, while East Carroll Parish had the highest rate at 10.9 percent.

Preliminary seasonally adjusted statewide total nonfarm employment for June 2006 was 1,770,100 compared to 1,768,100 for the revised May 2006 figure, for an increase of 2,000 workers. The sector breakdown was as follows: natural resources and mining, 48,100 employed in June, up from 47,700 employed in May; construction, 107,200, down from 107,600; manufacturing, 145,000, up from 144,000; trade, transportation, and utilities, 364,300, up from 363,800; information, 27,400, down from 27,900; financial activities, 96,100, up from 95,000; professional and business services, 171,700, up from 171,400; educational and health services, 214,100, up from 211,900; leisure and hospitality, 170,900, down from 172,300; other services, 58,000, up from 57,500; and government, 367,300, down from 369,000.

For more detailed information on the June 2006 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net, scroll over the tab at the top of the page for Labor Market Information, click on Publications & Reports, and select LMI Bulletin.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	June 2006			May 2006			June 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	145,216,000	7,341,000	4.8	144,041,000	6,655,000	4.4	142,456,000	7,870,000	5.2
LOUISIANA	1,802,977	110,923	5.8	1,784,516	90,481	4.8	2,011,327	141,651	6.6
ALEXANDRIA MSA	65,023	3,541	5.2	64,366	2,698	4.0	64,163	4,642	6.7
Grant	8,088	481	5.6	8,006	357	4.3	7,981	665	7.7
Rapides	56,935	3,060	5.1	56,360	2,341	4.0	56,182	3,977	6.6
BATON ROUGE MSA	341,015	19,193	5.3	339,329	15,661	4.4	338,206	24,139	6.7
Ascension	42,001	2,195	5.0	41,794	1,895	4.3	41,655	2,616	5.9
East Baton Rouge	202,325	11,001	5.2	201,325	8,987	4.3	200,659	13,871	6.5
East Feliciana	7,831	490	5.9	7,792	396	4.8	7,766	631	7.5
Iberville	11,723	1,014	8.0	11,665	795	6.4	11,626	1,242	9.7
Livingston	49,426	2,556	4.9	49,181	2,069	4.0	49,018	3,159	6.1
Pointe Coupee	9,268	652	6.6	9,222	456	4.7	9,192	947	9.3
St. Helena	3,842	414	9.7	3,823	343	8.2	3,811	515	11.9
West Baton Rouge	10,011	552	5.2	9,961	460	4.4	9,928	727	6.8
West Feliciana	4,588	321	6.5	4,566	260	5.4	4,550	433	8.7
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE-THIBODAUX MSA	89,621	4,132	4.4	88,531	3,399	3.7	93,198	5,467	5.5
Lafourche	42,525	1,976	4.4	42,008	1,549	3.6	44,223	2,558	5.5
Terrebonne	47,096	2,156	4.4	46,523	1,850	3.8	48,975	2,909	5.6
LAFAYETTE MSA	120,951	5,341	4.2	120,358	4,267	3.4	119,677	6,883	5.4
Lafayette	99,299	4,201	4.1	98,813	3,407	3.3	98,253	5,385	5.2
St. Martin	21,652	1,140	5.0	21,545	860	3.8	21,424	1,498	6.5
LAKE CHARLES MSA	88,460	4,664	5.0	87,715	3,508	3.8	91,073	6,078	6.3
Calcasieu	84,194	4,477	5.0	83,485	3,371	3.9	86,681	5,819	6.3
Cameron	4,266	187	4.2	4,230	137	3.1	4,392	259	5.6
MONROE MSA	77,287	4,344	5.3	76,736	3,482	4.3	77,976	5,813	6.9
Ouachita	67,555	3,808	5.3	67,074	3,023	4.3	68,158	5,081	6.9
Union	9,732	536	5.2	9,662	459	4.5	9,818	732	6.9
NEW ORLEANS-METairie-Kenner MSA	411,955	32,198	7.2	404,498	27,518	6.4	610,878	39,521	6.1
Jefferson	Household sample data were not available.						225,369	13,656	5.7
New Orleans City/Orleans							194,773	14,969	7.1
Plaquemines							11,485	727	6.0
St. Bernard							30,432	2,034	6.3
St. Charles							23,975	1,506	5.9
St. John Baptist							20,148	1,500	6.9
St. Tammany							104,698	5,129	4.7
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	172,191	9,651	5.3	170,329	7,635	4.3	171,386	12,272	6.7
Bossier	48,922	2,315	4.5	48,393	1,848	3.7	48,694	3,033	5.9
Caddo	112,503	6,716	5.6	111,287	5,239	4.5	111,977	8,381	7.0
De Soto	10,766	621	5.5	10,649	547	4.9	10,715	858	7.4

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	June 2006			May 2006			June 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,735	1,174	4.7	23,432	952	3.9	23,974	1,639	6.4
Allen	8,028	593	6.9	7,722	442	5.4	8,151	844	9.4
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	8,938	729	7.5	8,934	576	6.1	9,132	964	9.5
Avoyelles	14,968	1,026	6.4	14,720	793	5.1	14,947	1,400	8.6
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,196	742	5.3	13,552	592	4.2	13,593	1,019	7.0
Bienville	5,872	375	6.0	5,828	302	4.9	5,915	539	8.4
Caldwell	4,054	240	5.6	4,028	201	4.8	4,088	368	8.3
Catahoula	3,952	274	6.5	3,896	230	5.6	3,966	351	8.1
Claiborne	6,467	402	5.9	6,473	331	4.9	6,527	515	7.3
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,594	613	8.5	6,567	477	6.8	6,629	746	10.1
East Carroll	2,497	306	10.9	2,534	269	9.6	2,637	409	13.4
Evangeline	11,362	729	6.0	11,168	550	4.7	11,587	966	7.7
Franklin	7,238	589	7.5	7,024	502	6.7	7,396	766	9.4
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,763	1,685	5.2	30,134	1,308	4.2	30,753	2,293	6.9
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,001	334	5.3	6,132	250	3.9	6,105	426	6.5
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,716	630	4.4	13,314	483	3.5	13,798	842	5.8
La Salle	5,695	279	4.7	5,609	211	3.6	5,612	392	6.5
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,207	1,110	6.1	17,584	830	4.5	17,508	1,390	7.4
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,256	355	7.7	4,263	304	6.7	4,348	491	10.1
Morehouse ¹	10,635	958	8.3	10,672	747	6.5	10,953	1,248	10.2
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,727	1,022	5.8	17,103	811	4.5	16,953	1,305	7.1
Red River	2,998	239	7.4	3,005	190	5.9	3,094	337	9.8
Richland	7,879	563	6.7	7,761	440	5.4	8,027	732	8.4
Sabine	8,834	431	4.7	8,911	349	3.8	9,124	625	6.4
St. James	7,894	704	8.2	7,581	571	7.0	8,502	890	9.5
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	35,531	2,013	5.4	34,398	1,683	4.7	35,181	2,615	6.9
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,090	1,385	6.4	19,704	1,139	5.5	20,575	2,034	9.0
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	43,704	3,010	6.4	44,076	2,495	5.4	46,704	3,581	7.1
Tensas	1,961	215	9.9	1,941	193	9.0	2,096	235	10.1
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	22,540	1,154	4.9	22,233	897	3.9	22,571	1,508	6.3
Vernon (Fort Port South) ¹	20,251	1,081	5.1	19,943	862	4.1	20,305	1,378	6.4
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,062	1,108	7.3	14,031	877	5.9	15,292	1,433	8.6
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,890	1,042	5.2	18,520	826	4.3	18,499	1,491	7.5
West Carroll	4,150	389	8.6	4,198	327	7.2	4,270	591	12.2
Winn	5,789	359	5.8	5,664	302	5.1	5,958	473	7.4

¹In addition to the eight (8) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Louisiana, there are seventeen (17) Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs): Jackson and Lincoln Parishes combine to constitute the Ruston MC area. Civilian Labor Force can be derived by adding employed and unemployed. For related information or data, please visit:

www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm.